



NORTH CAROLINA ARMY RETIREE COUNCIL

Post Office Box 70029 Fort Bragg, North Carolina 28307-5000
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3 July 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Minutes of the North Carolina Army Retiree Council Meeting
25 June 2005

1. The quarterly meeting of the North Carolina Army Retiree Council (NCARC) was called to order by Co-Chairman SGM(R) Law at 0930 hours, 25 June 2005 at the Ft. Bragg Officers' Club.

MEMBERS PRESENT

COL(R) Don Latella, Co-Chairman
SGM(R) Larry Law, Co-Chairman
COL(R) Rudy Baker
COL(R) Joe F. Britt
COL(R) Clifford M. Deal (III)
COL(R) Donald A. Doll Jr. (II)
COL(R) George F. Heberer (IV)
COL(R) William F. Rawley Sr. (VI)
LTC(R) Thomas E. Parsons (VIII)
CSM(R) Rodney C. Deese (III)
1SG(R) Robert H. Ward (II)
MSG(R) Moses L. Best
SFC(R) Salvatore J. Campochiaro
Mr. John Bell - IRSO
() indicates regional area

OTHERS PRESENT

COL Vicky Post, Dir Community Activities
Ms. Nan Sanders, Installation AG

VISITOR

Rev [SFC(R)] Roy F. Hill-Fayetteville

2. Mr. Bell gave an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. SGM(R) Law recognized visitors and reviewed the material in the packet.
4. COL Post reported that Sports Illustrated will most likely have an article on military golf courses featuring Ryder Golf Course thanks to GEN(R) Buck Kernan who visited a couple of weeks ago with magazine staff. This year's 4th of July celebration will kick-off on Sunday the 3rd - concerts both days with other activities culminating with fireworks Monday night. The celebration gets better every year. She referred to the MWR web site which has weekly updates. COL(R) Latella commented that it is one of the neatest web sites he has seen and encouraged everyone to check it out. Those who have not updated their email address with COL Post were asked to do so.

5. Ms. Sanders reported the planning time for RAD was ongoing. She is looking for any new ideas that could make RAD appealing to more retirees. She is concerned that the younger retirees might get the impression that RAD has nothing for them, it is designed primarily for those desiring the health care activities available at Womack during RAD. There is a need for the numbers of retirees coming on scene such as those that are being medically retired due to the GWOT. She reported that the renovation of the Soldier Support Center will incorporate the VA office and RSO possibly with ACAP.

SGM(R) Law asked that additional consideration be given as to the location for RSO. He commented that co-locating RSO near ACAP and VA might not be as great as it initially sounds since the young warriors coming and going through ACAP and visiting VA do not necessarily mesh well with the predominately senior citizen retiree group (sort of like when they formed the mixed wing at Pope AFB – fast mover jet fighters, slower jet A10s – and prop driven C130s) – it didn't work!. COL(R) Latella commented that the last time he came to Womack all of the Handicapped Parking spaces were occupied by autos non of which had a Handicapped sticker or card. Ms. Sanders stated that she was told that the violators could not be cited since the sign were not exactly the correct format. The question was raised reference parking near the building.

6. Committee Reports:

a. Commissary: SFC(R) Campochiaro reported that the Commissary Officer had indicated that he planned to attend today's meeting, however, he's a no-show. He stated that there is now a tour of the commissaries conducted for newly assigned troops.

b. AAFES: MSG(R) Best reported that Ms. Gordon was TDY and sent her regrets for not being here. He mentioned the need to remark pedestrian cross walk between the parking lot and the entrance to the PX. He was told by PX folks that this area was the responsibility of the Public Works not the PX. He also reported that the rest rooms were going to be relocated further down from the food court. COL Post reported that the parking lot for the North PX is a priority for refurbishing and is tentatively scheduled for the first or second quarter next FY. She also commented that the PX had donated floral arrangements for visiting VIPs.

7. Other Reports:

RAD: Mr. Bell stated that the folks at Womack are moving full speed ahead in planning for a bigger and better RAD this year. They see this as an opportunity to market Womack and the military health care system. Womack will furnish soldier support such as guides, wheel chair pushers etc. He encouraged everyone to put the date on their calendars to attend. The format will be basically the same as last year: Friday morning Golf Tournament – Dinner Friday evening at the O'Club – activities at Womack Saturday.

It looks as if GEN McNeill, FORSCOM Commander, will be the keynote speaker Friday evening. Mr. Bell reported that the tasking letter for post units and activities is presently being staffed. A newsletter should be out the first week of August. Hopefully, the PAO for both Womack and Corps will dispatch news releases to the media throughout the state reference RAD. COL Post as asked if there might be possibilities to have MWR activities offer some sort of special consideration and/or discounts to retirees during the entire week of 11-17 September. Mr. Bell plans to ask the PX and Commissary Officers if their facilities would offer discounts and/or special sales to retirees during the same period. The question of busses for shuttles to other activities such as museums etc. was discussed. Based on the utilization of busses in past years, it was recommended that a couple of 15 pax vans would suffice. SGM(R) Law asked if there were any specific subject matters that members would like to have GEN McNeill address during his talk at the dinner other than the role of the FORSCOM troops, transformation, where is the Army now and where are we going.

8. Regional Reports:

Region I – Western – No report

Region II – Catawba & Northwest – COL(R) Doll reported that the second Military Appreciation Day was conducted in the area. Among the activities was the jump by five members of the Green Beret Sports Parachute Team who made two jumps during the activities. The local NG provided the military support. The local sheriff sent a SWAT Team and dogs for demonstrations. He asked how he could get a TRICARE support team to come to the area. Mr. Bell indicated he would try and set up a TRICARE brief for the area. 1SG Ward reported that COL(R) Doll was the prime mover who put the Military Appreciation Day together and deserves a lot of thanks.

Region III – Southern Piedmont – COL(R) Deal reported that at their last meeting two NG Captains recently returned from Iraq (one a battery commander) gave a presentation to the group. There were about 50 in the audience. He indicated that the majority of those who participate in the local activities are of the senior citizen group. He expressed concern about the younger disabled soldiers who go into the VA system, and do not have any contact with the Army anymore. It was pointed out that there is a distinct difference between those who are medically retired with a disability as opposed to those who are given a severance and separated. The key is – does the person have an ID card? There is a need for some more outreach programs. CSM(R) Deese had a question reference retirees applying for recall to active duty.

SFC(R) Campochiaro responded by reporting on a program that he had come across wherein there are certain grades/MOSs etc. where there is a critical need. He has an application pending at this time. He indicated that he got his information through a Special Forces Assn. web site: www.sfahq.org Ms. Sanders stated that the Army Human Resources web site has all kinds of information of this subject.

Region IV – Triad – No report

Region V – No report

Region VI – Triangle – COL(R) Rawley reported that the USO at RDU Airport is doing an outstanding job in taking care of troops and families passing through. There are a number of retirees in the area who try to meet as many planes as possible just to be there to say “THANK YOU” – WELCOME” to troops coming in. The USO is open 24/7. In May a total of 2031 people were served at the USO by some 89 volunteers for 1137 hours. COL(R) Latella commented that it is very apparent that there’s quite a movement by a large number of folks who want desperately to liken the GWOT to the Vietnam situation. Actions by these folks in the Raleigh area and the USO at RDU Airport are really positive signs of support.

Region VII – Southeastern – Mr. Bell reported on LTC(R) Byers who sent a message indicating that due to health reasons he would have to resign his position. Mr. Bell informed the Council that LTC(R) Byers had not only served the Army retirees in the area, but was instrumental in assisting and guiding the folks at Camp Lejeune establish a representative retiree group for Navy and Marine retirees in that area. The Council wishes LTC(R) Byers all the best.

Region VIII – Coastal Plains – LTC(R) Parsons reported that at their July meeting he will have the military and veterans affairs representative from Congressman Jones office come a make a presentation. He gave an update on the restriction of access to information of DD Forms 214s that are registered with the counties.

9. Comments for other Council Members:

COL(R) Baker expressed his concern at the number of empty places at the Council table. He pointed that when one takes on the commitment to serve on such councils as this, there is an obligation for devoted participation. He stated his opinion that the Council can do without those who are only interested in having there name printed as part of the group for resume purposes. He encouraged the regional co-chairs to seek out the County Veterans Service Officers (every county has one). These veteran services officer are the ones who can best serve many of these young veterans/retirees we are concerned about.

COL(R) Britt reported that there appears to be problem with some retirees who are still carrying supplemental medical insurance even though they are on Medicare Part B with TRICARE for Life as a supplement. Apparently, after treatment the bills are submitted to Medicare and in turn sent to the supplemental carrier, however, the supplemental insurance company is not notifying TRICARE for Life. The end result is that a portion of the bill is not being paid and the retiree is being dunned for lack of payment sometimes with the threat of have account turned over to bill collector. Mr. Bell stated that it's possible that the TRICARE representative at Womack AMC may be able to assist.

NOTE: The Jan-Apr 2005 edition of ARMY ECHOES (page 10) has listing of telephone numbers and email addresses for the three CONUS TRICARE Regions.

MSG(R) Best commented on the local Braxton-Bragg Chapter of the AUSA outreach program in trying to establish sub-chapters throughout the state. The chapter president, BG(R) Nagel would like to use the NCARC structure as POCs for this venture. Mr. Bell echoed the value of the AUSA and how that organization has worked hand in hand with the retirees at all levels and encouraged membership

10. Co-Chairmen Comments:

COL(R) Latella commented how encouraged he was listening to all the comments at today's meeting. He sees the regions growing in activities and participation. Each year RAD is getting bigger and better. He stated that there are still too many retirees out there who are eligible for CRSC but are not applying. They need to know that this is tax free money in addition to retirement pay. He encourages those with any disability percentage to be reevaluated, and those with a percentage and holder of the Purple Heart are missing the boat by not applying. There was much discussion reference the revamping of the program which becomes effective in the near future.

SGM(R) Law commented on the fact that he has received requests from different local non-profit organization to make presentations to the Council. He stated that since the Council represents all 100 counties in the state, there are efforts in every county that are designed to honor, support etc. veterans/retirees, however, these all local in nature. The USO at RDU Airport is all encompassing in that it affects active duty military, retirees and families throughout the state. He thanked COLs Aycock and Post for their assistance in having a site for this meeting. He stated that the next NCARC meeting would be in conjunction with RAD.

NCARC

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The next meeting is scheduled to be held in conjunction with RAD 16 Sep 05 at 1400 hours.

The meeting following RAD is tentatively scheduled to be held 19 Nov 05 at 0930 hours.

11. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1212 hours.

Lawrence L. Law

Lawrence L. Law
Sergeant Major, USA Retired
Co-Chairman

Donald Latella

Donald Latella
Colonel, USA Retired
Co-Chairman

DISTRIBUTION:

1 ea Council Member
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